



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
2910 N. 44th Street, Ste. 210 ~ Phoenix, AZ 85018
(602) 912-8444 ~ www.id.state.az.us

Ways to Avoid Being a Victim of Phony Insurance

The best protection is prevention! You wouldn't choose a nursing home or hire a builder without doing some homework...the same applies to insurance!

- **Verify before you buy!** Check the validity of the insurance company *and* agent by contacting the Department of Insurance:

www.id.state.az.us or (602) 912-8444

(Check the *exact* name being used--scam companies often use names similar to real insurance companies).

FIGHT FAKE INSURANCE
STOP. CALL. CONFIRM.

- Fake insurance comes in *all* types: health, boat, medical malpractice, surety, business liability, long term care. It is marketed to *all* types of people—professional, honest, low income, high income, educated, young and old.
- It can be difficult to tell if you are dealing with a licensed agent or insurer. Don't let slick looking business cards, forms, marketing materials and websites persuade you that an insurance entity is legitimate.
- Review documentation carefully—make sure it looks "original", not photocopied; look for a seal, authentic signatures.
- If the paperwork looks suspicious, contact the insurance company listed to verify that a policy was issued.
- Research the insurer: contact the BBB, the Corporation Commission, and the U.S. Department of Labor; get financial ratings from AM Best and other financial rating services; ask the state insurance department for complaint figures and financial information.
- Check out websites: Is there a *physical* address? Are there names of company officers? Are there valid phone numbers? Is there a way for you to contact the company besides email? Don't settle for a P.O. Box, voice mail or email.
- Ask questions, keep notes about who you spoke to, keep copies of documents, and get receipts for premium payments.
- Research "Discount" health plans and cards carefully. They are *not* insurance and not government regulated. There has been a lot of fraud alleged among "Discount" plans.

Warning signs!

"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!"

Proceed cautiously if...

- * You get a "quote" that is noticeably lower than ones you've previously received.
- * You're told there is "no underwriting" or they "take all applicants", or if they do not ask you any questions about your current health status or prior claims experience.
- * You're told *"This insurance is not regulated by the State"* or *"This is not insurance."*
- * The alleged insurer's name is very similar to that of another well-known insurance company.
- * Documents look "doctored" or suspicious.
- * No physical address nor any names of company officers on website or literature.